

Research Activity Panel Meeting Summary

Gregor M. Cailliet, MLML, RAP Chair

MAY 2000 MEETING

Host: National Undersea Research Program (Geoff Wheat)

Location: Moss Landing Marine Laboratories Seminar Room

Friday May 12, 2000

Attendance: 15 RAP members and 4 guests

PRESENTATIONS

NURP Update (Geoff Wheat)

NURP presently has a \$ 2.5 million budget, funding 14 Projects. For the first time, they are using MBARI equipment, for which NURP pays a day rate. NURP is working hard to get support for underwater observatories, especially on the west coast, and is working with Santa Clara University to produce new, smaller Phantom-like ROVs, which can be used in MBNMS-related projects, such as Foster and Heine's deep water macro-algal survey, Hanlon and Rummel's (MBL/WHOI) project quantifying reproductive behavior of squid on spawning grounds in Monterey Bay, and Lonsdale and Castillove's (SIO) project on the geology of a spreading center off Monterey, California.

Sustainable Seas Expedition (Andrew DeVogelaere)

Andrew gave an update on SSE safety workshop, standards, and the pilot memo.

Hyperspectral imaging in Elkhorn Slough and central California Coast (Don Potts)

Don reported on detailed aerial images through the Elkhorn Slough watershed and around the Monterey Peninsula. Each pixel has many spectral bands (they use 126 band, 2-3 m spatial resolution). Processing by ENVI allows good images of different species of plant (live oak, eel grass, *Enteromorpha*, and *Macrocystis pyrifera*, etc.). This is very useful for ecosystem monitoring and should be featured in next Ecosystem Observations. It has already been used extensively by Dick Zimmerman at MLML in Elkhorn Slough.

Ecosystem Monitoring in Alaska (Bob Spies; Applied Marine Sciences)

Bob has been the Chief Scientist for the Exxon Valdez Trustee Council since 1990 and is involved in the Gulf Ecosystem Monitoring (GEM) Program (~\$ 12 million per year for a restoration reserve endowment that provides ~ \$ 4 - 5 million per year). This will start in 2003, and will concentrate on how natural resources change over the long-term, which fits within our MBNMS ecosystem monitoring objectives.

DISCUSSION

Ecosystem Monitoring Program Update (Mario Tamburri)

Mario presented an overview of the results from the workshop that was well attended and produced a report for review. The Ecosystem Monitoring committee is meeting regularly to fine-tune the proposals for an MBNMS Program.

Assessment of the GeoSea Report

Mike Field presented his committee's review, which disagreed with much of this report, mainly on model validity, sediment transport patterns in and near the Santa Cruz Harbor, and sediment amounts produced from dredging versus normal winter discharge. Mike will prepare a written review for the RAP and MBNMS staff.

Point Pinos Tidepool Task Force Subcommittee

Chris Harrold reviewed the history of this issue and the petition which had been submitted to the Pacific Grove City Council. Meanwhile, an RFP has been circulated providing \$ 76,000 to do a two year study on the ecology of this intertidal area and how it might be responding to natural and/or human disturbances.

Future Meetings

The next RAP meeting will be 14 July, 2000 at MBARI. Karen Forney will be invited to present detailed information on the gill net by-catch issue within the MBNMS.